

Fun N Fitchburg Mass in Motion Meeting minutes

Sept 20, 2010

3:00-4:40 PM

City Hall Veterans Room 718 Main Street

The meeting came to order approximately 3:05PM, 16 members present

Introductions and logo voting took place.

An overview of activities according to the Fun 'n FITchburg Community Action Plan (parks and fresh local produce) – including which structure works best for members. A sign up for adopting a neighborhood was passed around (Cleghorn, Elm St, and Green Acres) to create working groups in each neighborhood.

The walk-ability audits were reviewed.

Main Street-several areas where the cross walks lights are not functioning, the timing is wrong or they are not safe.

Many cut outs on streets not wheelchair friendly.

Overgrowth at Monument Park –creating unsafe atmosphere

Traffic islands too short in some areas and needed in others.

Overgrowth on sidewalks-disrepair of sidewalks as well as trees on sidewalks destroying the sidewalk

Green acres-

Trash on street

Dangerous streets and intersections

Weeds narrowing sidewalks

Sinkholes –making walking dangerous

Elm St

Sinkholes in street near sidewalks

Unsafe intersections Fitchburg Annex- eyesore- should be parking or greenspace

Trash on sidewalks put out too early

Sidewalks in disrepair-especially near senior center

Overgrowth of bushes and trees blocking street signs

Overgrowth on sidewalks

Cleghorn

Sidewalk conditions in disrepair

No Cut outs on sidewalks near elderly complex

No crosswalks connecting residential areas and park

Sinkholes in park

Overgrowth on sidewalks Traffic island needed at intersection of Daniels, Pratt and Woodland.

A slide show was presented to review the walk-ability audits conducted highlighting strengths and barriers for each walk – many of the key themes were the same across the board (trash, sidewalks, crosswalks, overgrowth, and curb cutouts). Next steps are advocacy and presentation of the data to the DPW and other identified policy makers in order of priority and ability to make changes as requested. The consensus is to work with the policy makers/city government to see what they are already planning and how we can help them further.

Kayla MacNamara Parks and Rec. Director recapped trolley tour to continue momentum already generated. This included a brief overview of the parks –to identify risky parks, increase awareness of safety concerns, employ problem oriented policing, analyze park designs, advocate for maintenance, improve physical space and promote activities and safe image.

Next on agenda is to have an assessment of one park in each of these neighborhoods
The Focus groups will join in these Park Assessments

Sheila Lumi – Farmers Market Manager led discussion including how to attract families to farmers market, increase access to farmers markets,-determine strengths and barriers, secure fresh produce and work with local suppliers to provide fresh produce and how to establish equitable purchasing practices.

The idea of a mobile unit to distribute to neighborhoods was suggested.

Meeting adjourned at 4:40pm